



Hamilton Serbians Soccer Club

FACILITY & EQUIPMENT SAFETY POLICY

1. Introduction

Hamilton Serbians Soccer Club is committed to providing a safe and inclusive environment for all players, coaches, referees, and spectators. This policy outlines the safety requirements for our facilities and equipment, in alignment with the **Canada Soccer Guide to Safety**.

2. Facility Safety

To ensure a safe playing environment, the following guidelines must be adhered to:

- **Field Inspections:** Prior to every training session and match, designated club officials will inspect the field for hazards such as debris, holes, uneven surfaces, or any other potential dangers. Any issues must be reported immediately and addressed before play begins.
- **Goalpost Safety:** All goalposts must be securely anchored and inspected regularly. Portable goals must be weighted down properly to prevent tipping. Players should never climb or hang on goalposts. Goalposts which are “home-made”, or which have been altered from their original size or construction will not be used. Before use, team officials should test the goals for stability and anchoring.
- **Goal nets:** It is strongly recommended that nets should only be secured by plastic hooks or tape and not by metal cup hooks.
- **Spectator Areas:** Designated spectator areas should be clearly marked and kept separate from player zones to avoid interference or injuries.
- **Lighting & Visibility:** Evening games and practices must only take place on fields with adequate lighting to prevent injuries.

3. Equipment Safety

All equipment used by the Hamilton Serbians Soccer Club must meet the safety standards outlined by Canada Soccer:

- **Balls & Training Equipment:** Soccer balls must be properly inflated and free from defects. Cones, nets, and other training aids must be in good condition and positioned safely.
- **Protective Gear:** Players must wear shin guards during all training sessions and matches. Goalkeepers must use properly fitted gloves.
- **First Aid & Emergency Equipment:** A fully stocked first-aid kit must be available at all training sessions and games. AED devices should be accessible where possible, and coaches and/or team official must be trained in basic first aid.

4. Emergency Preparedness

- **Emergency Action Plan (EAP):** Each field location must have an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) in place and shared with coaches/team officials to identify the facility procedures for medical emergencies, severe weather, and other unexpected incidents.



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- **Each team is to have their own EAP** in place with Call Person/Charge Person and field location details on hand, emergency contact numbers of athletes on hand. See Hamilton Serbians Emergency Action Plan Policy.
- **Incident Reporting:** Any injuries or safety concerns must be documented and reported to the club President and Technical Director immediately. See Hamilton Serbians Emergency Action Plan Policy.
- **Weather Safety:** Games and practices must be suspended in the event of lightning, extreme heat, or other dangerous weather conditions, following Canada Soccer's weather safety guidelines. See Hamilton Serbians Extreme Weather Policy.

5. Compliance & Enforcement

- **Training & Awareness:** All coaches and team officials must be educated on this policy and their responsibilities in enforcing it.
- **Enforcement Measures:** Failure to comply with safety protocols may result in disciplinary action, including suspension of field use or participation in club activities.
- **Regular Review:** This policy will be reviewed annually and updated as needed to align with Canada Soccer Guide to Safety standards.

Fields currently used:

Facility Name	Address	Field Type	Accessible Washrooms	Other notes
Binbrook, "Shady Acres"	2545 Guyatt Rd, Binbrook, LOR1C0	1 – 9v9 turf 2 – full size 11v11 grass fields	Yes	
Winona Vine Estates	269 Glover Rd, Stoney Creek L8E5H6	1 – full size 11v11 grass field	Yes *note hours operation	*Hours of operation to access indoor washrooms not always open, Tim Hortons within 3km
United Soccer Centre	565 Seaman St, Stoney Creek L8E5Z5	Various sized indoor turf fields upto 11v11	Yes	Mostly for indoor programs
Orchard Park Secondary, HWDSB	200 Dewitt Rd, Stoney Creek, L8E4M5	1 – full size 11v11 outdoor turf	n/a	No access to indoor school building, Tim Hortons within 160 meters